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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/072,975	02/09/2002	Vladimir Efimov	AM-102.P.1.1-US	5096
24232	7590	10/09/2003	EXAMINER	
DAVID R PRESTON & ASSOCIATES 12625 HIGH BLUFF DRIVE SUITE 205 SAN DIEGO, CA 92130			RILEY, JEZIA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1637	

DATE MAILED: 10/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/072,975	EFIMOV ET AL.	
	Examiner Jezia Riley	Art Unit 1637	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 August 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 27-29 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 1-29 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>7/31/02</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's election of Group III (claims 27-29) on 8/28/03 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The claims are directed to a method for inhibiting gene expression comprising administering an oligonucleotide analog to a cell or organism. The specification only provides assertions of such process but no experimental data of such process.

The specification discloses that the compounds can be used as antisense agents for the inhibition of gene expression. That they can be synthesized and selected for their ability to inhibit gene expression.

One skilled in the art would recognize that the efficacy of an oligomeric analog or mimic for these uses depends critically on its having suitable conformation and flexibility, and also of its ability to penetrate cell membranes; and it is highly unpredictable whether a given oligonucleotide or oligopeptide mimic structure will permit binding to the target with high specificity and affinity. The efficacy of oligo analogs as hybridizing therapeutic agents depends unpredictably on the structures of the oligos. Uhlmann et al. state that modified, nuclease-resistant oligos often have lower affinities for their target sequences than do natural DNA or RNA oligos (page 562, right col., 2nd paragraph; page 564, first full paragraph), that modified oligos may not penetrate cells as well as unmodified oligos (Page 568), and may fail to be taken up and transported into the target cells in amount capable of delivering a therapeutic benefits (page 567). The examples given of the use of the disclosed compounds provided on the specification are hypothetical, and no actual data is given. In view of the breadth of the claims, which encompass an immense number of compounds of unknown activity; given that it is impossible to predict which of the multitude of structures encompassed by the claims would be able to bind successfully to a complementary nucleic acid or to protein with high affinity and specificity; and given the lack of guidance in the specification regarding how to select which of the specific oligos mimic structures encompassed by the claims could be made and used as therapeutic, diagnostic, or research reagent with a reasonable expectation of success. Therefore undue experimentation is required to make and use the invention as broadly claimed.

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

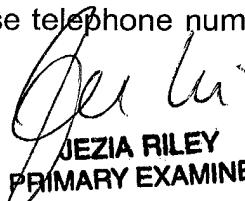
Claims 27-29 are vague and indefinite because it is unclear where in the formula is R3. Claim 27 for example discloses: "wherein each R3, R4, and R5 is, independently, hydrogen.....". However there is no R3 in the formula or anywhere in the claim.

6. The references were lined through in the PTO 1449 because they have not been provided by applicants.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jezia Riley whose telephone number is 703-305-6855. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached on 703-308-1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.


JEZIA RILEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER

10/7/03